



**2017 Texas Tech University/University of Utah  
Mile High Swing**

Dear Colleagues:

The forensic programs at Texas Tech University and The University of Utah invite you to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mile High Swing to be held on the campus of The University of Utah, January 5-8, 2017. **PLEASE NOTE: This year, the tournament will run over 4, not 3, days.**

The Mile High Swing will feature 2 complete parliamentary debate tournaments. At the first half (TTU), we will offer *5 preliminary rounds with a double-octafinal break* consistent with the NPTE, along with some other features similar to the NPTE, such as pre-released topic areas. At the second half (Great Salt Lake), we will offer *5 preliminary rounds with a possibility of partial triple-octofinals*, and we will utilize random topics similar to the NPDA Championship tournament. The first half will utilize mutual judging; the second will utilize strikes. Both tournaments will feature two minutes of flex-time after the PMC, LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

We are also pleased to announce that Joe Gantt, Director of Forensics at Lewis & Clark College, has agreed to tabulate the tournament.

We expect these tournaments to be some of the most competitive in the nation and we hope you will join us in Salt Lake City this coming January.

SPECIAL NOTE: The University of Utah and California State University Long Beach will host an IE/LD swing alongside this tournament. The schedule has been arranged to allow full-service teams to split their competition between halves (e.g., PARLI/PARLI, PARLI/IE, or IE/IE). PLEASE NOTE: PARLI competitors wishing to do IEs, must compete in PARLI during the first half (Thurs/Fri) of the DEBATE (with IEs on Saturday) swing due to scheduling constraints. The invitation can be found here: [http://www.debate.utah.edu/?page\\_id=8](http://www.debate.utah.edu/?page_id=8).

Sincerely,

Adam Testerman  
Director of Forensics  
Texas Tech University  
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Michael K. Middleton  
Director, John R. Park Debate Society  
University of Utah  
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### **Swing Tournament Hotel**

We have secured a room block and will be hosting registration at the Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites – Salt Lake City. The tournament hotel is located in downtown Salt Lake City and boasts convenient access to/from the University by TRAX, our local light rail.

### **Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites – Salt Lake City**

230 West 500 South

Salt Lake City Utah, 84101

Reservations: 801-328-4466

Group Code: GSL117

Rates: \$90 (up to quad occupancy)

\*\*\*Rate includes free breakfast buffet\*\*\*

**RESERVATION CUT OFF: Tuesday, December 3, 2016.**

*\*\*\*A Large Outdoor Retailers Convention begins during the weekend the tournament concludes, please book early to ensure room in the block\*\*\**

### **Tournament Procedures & Facilitation**

Unless otherwise specified, NPDA tournament guidelines will govern the tournament's operating procedures. The tournament directors reserve the right to make any decisions necessary to facilitate the timely and accurate completion of the tournament.

### **Entries & Eligibility**

Tournaments are open to any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two year or four year college or university in good standing with the school's debate team/club. As the tournaments run back-to-back, students may (and are encouraged to) attend both tournaments.

All entries should be submitted via the [forensicstournament.net](http://forensicstournament.net) website. Please make sure that you ***enter both halves*** of the swing, if that is your choice. **Entries are due by Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM (PST)**. This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

**Please Note!** In addition, all judges must enter a judging philosophy on [forensicstournament.net](http://forensicstournament.net) by Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM (PST). Schools that fail to enter their judge's philosophies will forfeit the right to complete preferences/strikes AND/OR BE REQUIRED TO PAY A NUISANCE FEE. We hate to make threats concerning philosophies, but we are concerned by the need for the tournament to scramble and prod schools for philosophies. Please enter philosophies when you enter your judges to ensure that other schools have access to information so that they can make appropriate decisions concerning their preferences.

## **Campus**

The tournament will make every effort to minimize the length of walks on campus. Prep rooms will be randomly assigned by size of squad and space needs.

## **Parliamentary Debate- 1<sup>st</sup> Half (TTU)**

Five preliminary rounds of parliamentary debate will be offered followed by double-octafinals in one open division. Competition will be administered according to the NPDA rules of Judging and Debating. Time limits are 7 minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup> government constructive, 8 minutes for all other constructive speeches, 4 minutes for the leader of opposition rebuttal, and 5 minutes for the prime minister rebuttal.

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** Both tournaments will feature two minutes of flex time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

## **Pre-Released Topic Areas (TTU Half Only)**

Topics will be selected from a list of 5 controversy areas released approximately on or about November 25, 2016. We recognize that the vast majority of schools will have either just completed their winter break or may still be on winter break at the time of the swing; therefore, allowing one month (or more) of time to review the topic areas and resolutions will allow for all students to have some opportunity to conduct research.

## **Advancing to Elimination Rounds**

At the end of the preliminary rounds, we will, consistent with NPTE practices, advance all teams with a winning record (3-2 and better) up to a full double-octafinal; *a partial elim will not be held at this half*. Teams advance first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds.

## **Mutuality-based Judging**

At this half of the tournament, we will offer mutual judging. All judge ranking information must be submitted by Wednesday, January 4th at 6:00PM PST in order to be guaranteed for the first two rounds of competition.

***Forfeiture Rule:*** Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team's first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

### **Centralized Topic Announcement (BOTH TOURNAMENTS)**

Topics, during the tournament, will be released at a centralized announcement site and teams will have 20 minutes to prepare and walk to their room. We will assign a preparation room for each squad. We are on a very tight schedule, so it is imperative that rounds begin on time! Judges should begin their rounds precisely 20 minutes after topic announcement. **THIS TOURNAMENT WILL USE EMAIL BALLOTING!**

### **Judge Disclosure & Feedback (BOTH TOURNAMENTS)**

Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary after the ballot has been returned by email. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time. A warm room of results will be provided.

### **Parliamentary Debate- 2<sup>nd</sup> Half (Great Salt Lake)**

All tournament guidelines are the same as for the Texas Tech half, with the exception of two things; at the GSL half, there will be no topic areas (though topics from the TTU topic areas may be used) and mutuality-based judging will not be utilized.

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** Both tournaments will feature two minutes of flex time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

### **Advancing to Elimination Rounds**

At the end of the preliminary rounds, we will advance all teams with a winning record (3-2 and better) to elimination rounds, including a partial triple octafinal round. Teams advance first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds.

### **Judge Strikes**

An appropriate number of judge strikes will be available. Once again, judge strikes need to be submitted by Wednesday, January 4th at 6:00PM PST in order to be guaranteed for the first two rounds of competition. **WE WILL USE EMAIL BALLOTING!**

***Forfeiture Rule:*** Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team's first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

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### **Awards**

Individual awards will be presented to the top 10 speakers in each tournament. Because we value meaningful awards for top performances, quality awards (one per team) will be presented to all teams who advance to the quarterfinal round and beyond. Additionally, we will present a swing sweepstakes award to the top three schools at the combined two tournaments. Swing sweepstakes will be determined by awarding 1 point for every preliminary round win for a school's top four teams at each tournament. Ties will be broken in favor of the school whose team advanced farthest at the first half of the swing. We will also have a special award for the top speaker at both halves combined.

The award for top speaker and top team at the GSL half honor two of Utah's emeriti faculty in argumentation & debate. First, the Malcolm O. Sillars Tournament Champion Award will be given to the team that wins the Open division of NPDA at the GSL. Second, the Richard Rieke Outstanding Debater award will be given to the top ranked speaker in the Open division of the GSL

## **Fees**

For the 2017 tournament, we are adjusting fees to better reflect the costs of the tournament and their variation depending on the size of judging/coaching staff that attends with teams. We are accomplishing this by drastically reducing the “per team fee” (by 30%) and adding a nominal per person fee. Fees structures will remain identical at both halves of the tournament, as in past years. These fees include meals as indicated in the schedule, as well as light snacks and coffee throughout the tournament.

\*\*Fees will be assessed as of 11:59 PM PST, Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and schools will be expected to pay fees as indicated by their entry at that time regardless of subsequent deletions.

### ***Fee Structure (per half):***

\$65.00 Team Fee

\$15.00 Per Person Fee (required for every competitor, judge, observer, or coach)

\$150 Per Uncovered Team (1 Judge covers 2 Teams)

### ***Community College Fee Reduction***

The University of Utah and Texas Tech University support the involvement of community colleges in competitive forensics both through our recruitment efforts and our outreach. Consistent with those efforts, all community college teams that cover their judging commitment will receive a fee reduction from their total fees (excluding uncovered judging fees).

### ***CC Adjusted Fee Structure:***

\$40.00 Team Fee

\$10 Per Person Fee

\$150 Per Uncovered Team (1 Judge covers 2 Teams)

### ***A note on uncovered judging:***

It's cliché, but we would rather have your judges than your money. The tournament directors reserve the right to refuse entry to teams uncovered by a critic. If you have extra judges attending the tournament, please contact the tournament directors, as we may be able to hire them at a healthy stipend.

### ***Judging Obligation***

Judges will be expected to judge all preliminary rounds and thru the double-octofinal round. After that point, judges will be expected to judge one round past the elimination of their teams.

# Tournament Schedule

## Wednesday, January 4

7:30 – 9:00PM - Debate/IE Registration: Tournament Hotel

## Thursday, January 5

8:30 AM – Breakfast (All Competitors)  
9:00 AM - Round 1 Topic Announce  
10:30 AM - Round 2 Topic Announce  
12:00 PM – Lunch (All Competitors)  
1:00 PM - Round 3 Topic Announce  
3:00 PM - Round 4 Topic Announce  
5:00 PM - Round 5 Topic Announce  
6:30 PM – Dinner & Awards (All Competitors)  
7:30 PM – Double Octafinal Topic Announce

## Friday, January 6

8:30 – Breakfast (All Remaining Competitors)  
9:00 AM - Octafinal Topic Announce  
11:00 AM – Quarterfinal Topic Announce  
12:30 PM - Lunch (Semifinals Participants & Judges)  
1:30 PM – Semifinals Topic Announce  
3:30 PM – Finals Topic Announce  
5:30 PM – Round 1 Topic Announce  
7:00 PM – Dinner (All Competitors)  
7:30 PM – Round 2 Topic Announce

## Saturday, January 7

8:30 AM – Breakfast (All Competitors)  
9:00 AM - Round 3 Topic Announce  
11:00 AM - Round 4 Topic Announce  
12:30 PM – Lunch (All Competitors)  
1:30 PM - Round 5 Topic Announce  
3:30 PM - Triple Octafinal Topic Announce  
5:30 PM – Double Octafinal Announce  
7:00 PM – Dinner & Awards (All Competitors)  
7:45 PM – Octafinal Topic Announce – GSL

## Sunday, January 8

8:00 AM – Breakfast (All Remaining Competitors)  
8:30 AM – Quarterfinals Topic Announce  
10:30 AM - Semifinals Topic Announce  
12:30 PM – Lunch (Finals Participants & Judges)  
ASAP – Finals Topic Announce

### **Driving Directions**

*From the Airport:* Out of airport, follow signs toward Park City/Cheyenne. You will pass through downtown on the freeway as it curves right and then left. When you arrive at 1300E, exit the freeway and turn left onto 1300E. Go north until you reach 100S and turn right at the northwest corner of campus. Follow this street onto the U of Utah campus. The street winds around the north side of campus (it changes as it winds, ending up as North Campus Drive). Take a right following signs to Olpin Union or OSH (Orson Spencer Hall, the Tournament HQ), the Street is Central Campus Drive. *Parking fees will be assessed by the University on weekdays; the weekend is free in any lot, unless otherwise marked.*

*From the Hotel:* From the Crystal Inn, turn right out of the parking lot onto 500 South. Then, turn right on 300 West and then right onto 400 South. Continue on 400 South, noting that it will curve to the right and then to the left as you head up the hill. When you reach the top, turn left onto 1300 East. Take 1300 East until you reach 100 South; turn right onto 100 South. . Follow this street onto the U of Utah campus. The street winds around the north side of campus (it changes as it winds, ending up as North Campus Drive). Take a right following signs to Olpin Union or OSH (Orson Spencer Hall, the Tournament HQ), the Street is Central Campus Drive. *Parking fees will be assessed by the University on weekdays; the weekend is free in any lot, unless otherwise marked.*

*From Airport to Hotel:* Exit the airport and head on I-80 east toward downtown/Park City/Cheyenne. You will curve through downtown reaching an exit for 600 South. Exit here. Immediately upon exit you will arrive at 200 West, turn left. When you reach 500 South, turn left. You will see the Crystal Inn to your right as you head west on 500 South.



**Nondiscrimination and Accessibility:**

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, (which includes prohibiting acts of sexual harassment or acts of sexual misconduct) age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. In addition, University policy and state and federal law, prohibit retaliation against a person who participates in the discrimination complaint process. Employees, students, and persons who participate in University programs are required to comply with the University non-discrimination policies.

**Disability Accommodations**

The University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Reasonable notice is required.

For inquiries concerning discrimination, sexual harassment, the University's complaint process or to request a disability accommodation, please contact the University of Utah's Director of Forensics. If required, or if you wish, you may also contact the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Krista L. Pickens

Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135

Salt Lake City, UT, 84112

801-581-8365 (voice/tdd)

801-585-5746 (fax)

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